

SEP 12 1924

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CAPTAIN BLOOD

photoplay in 11 reels

Story by Rafael Sabatini

Scenario by Gary Pilecher

Directed by David Smith

Author of the photoplay (under section 62)
The Vitagraph Company of America of U.S.

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Synopsis of....

"CAPTAIN BLOOD."

A picture made by The Vitagraph Company of America from the novel by Rafael Sabatini.

Peter Blood, an Irish doctor in the town of ~~Engl~~ Bridgewater, England, in the year 1685, refuses to join the rebel forces which, under the leadership of the Duke of Monmouth, are trying to unthronc King James II. Jeremy Pitt, a neighbor, tries to persuade him, but Blood refuses to embroil himself. After the battle of Sedgmoor, in which the King's forces disastrously defeat the rebels, Pitt returns to Blood's house, asking for medical assistance for Lord Gildoy, wounded and hidden at Oglethorpe Farm nearby. Blood responds, but while he is attending the injuries of the wounded man, the King's troops come upon them and Blood, Pitt and others are taken as rebels.

Arraigned before Lord Jeffreys of Wem, the "Hanging Judge," Peter is adjudged guilty of high treason and sentenced to die. King James, however, seeing the need of human material to work on his West Indian plantations, sends Blood, Pitt and others to Barbados.

turned, but have no idea who took over the ship. Bishop goes out to learn and is amazed to find Blood in command. Blood holds Bishop as a hostage until the ship clears the port, telling him that his (Blood's) regard for Arabella is the only thing that keeps him from hanging the Colonel. Bishop is made to swim ashore, which infuriates him against Blood. He threatens dire vengeance.

Pitt being ill, Blood promises Diego freedom if he navigates the ship to a Dutch island. Diego proves a traitor and sails the ship to a Spanish island, within sight of a Spanish warship, commanded by his brother, Miguel, Admiral of Spain. Unable to cope with the Spanish ship, Blood has Diego lashed to a cannon's mouth and persuades Estaban to visit his uncle's ship and explain away the absence of Diego. This Estaban does, not knowing that before he left Blood's ship, Diego had died of fright. Blood keeps his word and sets Estaban free.

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Pitt and others plot to escape but he is discovered and beaten. Bishop himself flogs Pitt in an effort to learn the names of his companions. Pitt refuses to tell. Blood helps Pitt and is discovered by Bishop and is about to be flogged when a Spanish ship attacks the town. The ship is commanded by Don ~~Digger~~ De Espinosa and his son Estaban. Bishop leaves Blood and commands the military forces, trying in vain to repel the attack of the Spaniards. The Spaniards win the town and Governor Steed is made to prepare a huge treasure.

While the Spaniards commit all sorts of excesses in the town that night, Blood finds the slave pen unguarded and goes through the town. He notes that the Spanish ship is barely guarded. He also rescues Mary Traill from a Spaniard. Mary Traill is a friend of Arabella, and he takes her to the Bishop house where Arabella learns of his heroism. He urges them to flee, and then returns to his comrades - slaves all, and under the cover of darkness they board the ship and take the few Spaniards aboard prisoners.

Next morning when Diego and Estaban leave with the treasure and board the ship, Blood and his men capture them and then turn the ship's guns on the other pirates. Bishop and Steed see the tables

Levasseur over the ~~Dutch~~ girl, and places a misin- ~~formation~~ ^{statement} on the incident. She repulses the friendly overtures of Blood. Blood refuses the commission of King James. He sails the "Arabella" into danger however, in trying to get his charges back to Port Royal and runs into the English fleet. Blood cannot endanger the lives of his passengers by fighting and tries to surrender. The men start to mutiny, and, under pressure, Blood accepts the commission. When the English captain comes aboard and recognizes Blood, he is shown the commission.

Blood anchors his ship in Port Royal, but permits ~~himself~~ some of his crew to leave the harbour and return to the pirates' haven. Bishop seizes upon this act and summons Blood. He tells Blood that he cannot return to his ship. Blood has met Arabella outside, and when she accuses him of the affair with the other girl, he tells her that he killed another man under similar circumstances to save Mary Traill. Arabella sees that she has misjudged Blood and waits for him to come out. Blood holds up Bishop at the point of his pistol, although he conceals it under his coat. He forces Bishop to accompany him back to the ship. They pass Arabella, who is ready to explain and humble herself - but she is given no chance.

Blood is forced to become a pirate, and becomes friendly with the Governor of the Island of Tortuga. He enters into a partnership with another pirate named Levasseur. They are to meet at a rendezvous. Levasseur attacks a Dutch ship and takes as prisoners the son and the daughter of the Governor of Tortuga. He tries to force the boy to return for a ransom. Blood and his men arrive and learn of the transaction. Blood offers to pay the ransom, but Levasseur will not release the girl. Blood cuts a cross on her palm with his dagger, which gives him the right to dispute ownership. In the duel which follows, Blood kills Levasseur.

Arabella, meantime, has moved to Jamaica, and Bishop is appointed Governor, rejoicing in the opportunity it gives him to go after Blood. Arabella confesses to her friend Mary Traill, that she thinks a great deal of Peter Blood. The two girls sail to visit a neighboring island, and on their return their ship takes fire. Blood's ship - which he has re-named "The Arabella" picks them up, together with Lord Wade. This nobleman has been sent from England to give Blood a commission in the navy, as Blood's exploits have already gone all over the world.

Arabella learns from Wade the gossip about Blood's flight. For this act Blood is made Governor of Jamaica. Willoughby, and when Bishop returns from his fruitless quest, Blood is arrested and brought before Blood. Blood is lenient in his treatment, for which Arabella compliments him. They learn of their love for one another, and when Blood learns that Arabella refused to marry Wade, he takes matters into his own hands.

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Blood again uses Bishop as a hostage, and sends messages to Arabella by Lord Wade. Lord Wade delivers them, and Arabella sees that Blood is worthy of her love - and loves her. Wade proposes, but is rejected.

Blood sails off, and picks up other survivors. These are Lord Willoughby, new Governor General of the entire West Indies, and Admiral von Kuylen of the English fleet. They had been at Port Royal, but had found that Bishop had taken the entire fleet to attack a French island where Blood usually made his headquarters. War between France and England had given Bishop this excuse, although he knew that he was leaving Port Royal unguarded. Willoughby and Von Kuylen had been attacked by a French fleet and their ship sunk. Blood learns that King James had been overthrown and King William now occupied the throne. Thus he is left free to return to England. When he learns, however, that Port Royal is unguarded and that Arabella is there, he sails his two ship there, attacking the superior forces of the French, and after a thrilling battle, in which he boards the French flagship when the Arabella starts to sink. Blood is successful. The "Arabella" sinks, one French ship burns up and another is exploded to atoms.

On the island of Barbados, Blood and Pitt are among those slaves offered for auction. Pitt is purchased by Col. William Bishop, a wealthy plantation-owner. His niece, Arabella Bishop, is attracted to Blood and, after it is announced that Blood has medical knowledge, she persuades her uncle to purchase him. Governor Steed, suffering from gout notes that Blood is a physician. Consequently while Blood and the others are working in the fields, Steed has Blood sent for and finds his ministrations so effective that Blood is relieved of his other duties to work at his profession. Thus he meets Arabella again, and she finds her interest in him rising.

A raid, sponsored by Bishop, upon a Spanish ship, brings him in some treasure, and burdens the town with wounded Spanish prisoners. These are left to languish and die, until Blood obtains permission from Steed to attend them. Bishop tries to order him off, but Blood refuses. He also finds that Arabella is taking comforts to the wounded men. He had thought her of the same cruel breed as her uncle, and this acquaints him with her real character.

SEP 12 1924

Washington, D. C.

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SEP 17 1924

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